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2017 New Zealand General Election

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Abstract

The 2017 New Zealand General Election saw the formation of the 6th Labor Government. Prior to the election, seven parties contested seats (Labor, National, Green, ACT, New Zealand First, Maori, and Mana), and five retained their representation in government (Maori and Mana failed to win any seats). The National Party had previously formed government, with coalition partners in New Zealand First and ACT, and needless to say, this coalition was undone.

New Zealand has a well-respected democracy, and considered the freest in the world by Transparency International. Elections are held every three years at least, but can be called earlier. Votes from elections are counted over a 14-day period to ensure accuracy and the counting of every vote cast. People are free to speak politically, and not fear government infringement upon their rights and freedoms.

New Zealand has multiple types of seats in their parliament. Seats in New Zealand's parliament from constituencies, Maori-specific constituencies, and proportional representation based on popular vote percentages (list seats), the system collectively being called multimember-proportional (MMP for short). A successful coalition involves performing well in all three seat classifications. The winning Labor coalition came from Labor constituency seats, and Labor, Green, and New Zealand First list seats.

The upcoming election had been forecasted to be close before the coronavirus pandemic, however, Ardern's handling of the situation resulted in a massive boost for Labor that has only recently began to lessen. Labor remains ahead, with National and New Zealand First losing ground to ACT and the Greens. Labor remains favored to form government in the delayed election, albeit likely through a coalition with only the Greens this time.

Link to paper:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mOvg9G0S9SnfXK1F2jGCcRCZZ_SpsOEtz4r6HoBbsmo/edit?usp=sharing